



October 12, 2025

Melville United Church

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**Melville United Church
October 12, 2025
Thanksgiving Sunday**

*Presiding today: Rev. Felicia Urbanski
Ministry of Music: Suzanne Flewelling*

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle (in unison):

**We light a light in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Call to Worship (responsive):

Our lives are a blessing,

and so we give thanks.

Our loved ones are a blessing,

and so we give thanks.

This earth is a blessing,

and so we give thanks.

Each meal we enjoy, every time we share, is a blessing.

and so we give thanks.

In thanksgiving, let us worship God.

Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation VU 227

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
 For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
 For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
 silent growth while we are sleeping,
 future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
 In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
 In our worldwide task of caring
 for the hungry and despairing,
 in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
 For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
 For the wonders that astound us,
 for the truths that still confound us,
 most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer

In the midst of our thanksgiving, we pray for those whose harvest is poor, whose water is tainted, whose children are hungry, whose lives are threatened by disease or war. Help those who bring relief and who welcome those seeking refuge. Bestow on us a thankful generosity so that all might share in your bountiful gifts and all might sing your praise. Amen.

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: Now Thank We All Our God, arranged by Kristin Campbell, played by Felicia Urbanski, violin and Suzanne Flewelling, piano

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness (responsive)

God of food,

Day by day, we are blessed with your generosity.

Thanks to your generosity, we have not gone hungry.

Thanks to your care, we have been comforted and nurtured.

Yet, we have not shared your generosity with others.

Due to our selfishness, we have abandoned those who are in need.

Due to our greed,

we only accumulated wealth without sharing it.

Accept our faults and forgive us.

We are grateful for this opportunity to confess our faults.

Words of Assurance

Jesus taught us not to worry about what to eat and what to wear.

Merciful God, you are endlessly patient and never give up on us.

We give you thanks for bestowing pardon so that we can live as a forgiven people.

Scripture: John 2:1-11 (English Standard Version) *reader Susan Barth*

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Sermon: Family Lost and Found

Hymn: You Satisfy the Hungry Heart VU 478

You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shepherd calls the sheep,
 they know and heed that voice,
 so when you call your family,
 we follow and rejoice. R
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to you
 our praise and gratitude,
 that you should count us worthy friends,
 to share this heavenly food. R
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share
 the blood of Christ outpoured?
 Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
 our oneness in the Lord? R
- 4 The mystery of your presence here
 no mortal tongue can tell;
 whom all the world cannot contain
 comes in our hearts to dwell. R
- 5 In gracious love you give yourself;
 then selfless let us be,
 to serve each other in your name
 in truth and charity. R

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Elsie Lively celebrates on October 13th
 - Ioan Shortt celebrates on October 15th
 - Chantel McIntosh celebrates on October 15th
 - Paula Bott celebrates on October 16th
 - Lynda Rivet celebrates on October 18th
- **Condolences**
 - We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Olive Marilyn Stickney who passed away on October 3rd

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation

A simple pumpkin or squash becomes food for a hungry world. Your harvest of goodness brings hope for the young and the young at heart. Today, we join hands with siblings in Christ all around the world. Today, we share our financial offerings, knowing that they, like our garden bounty, will help to bring new life to this congregation and to the world that God so loves. Our offerings will now be given and received.

Offering Hymn: Grant Us God the Grace of Giving VU 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, we bring these gifts – our first fruits – before you. We offer them to you so you may guide us and show us the best way to use these gifts in making the world a better place for everyone. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God VU 236

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart,
 and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
 in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God
 through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
 and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
 for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
 who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Commissioning and Blessing (responsive):

Go joyfully, God goes with you.

We will go joyfully, for God has celebrated with us over the years.

Go compassionately, God goes with you.

We will go with compassion, for we have known Jesus who stands with those who have suffered.

Go with justice, God goes with you.

We will go justly and mercifully, for the Holy Spirit will work through us to bring change for good.

Go in peace, God goes with you.

We will go in peace, and know that peace passes all understanding. Thanks be to God!

Postlude: Thanksgiving Song *words and music by Mary Shapin Carpenter, performed by Suzanne Flewelling*

VERSE 1

Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered 'round this table.
From far and near we travel home,
Blessed that we are able.

Grateful for this sheltered place
With light in every window.
Saying, "Welcome, welcome, share this feast
Come in away from sorrow."

CHORUS

Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless.
All together everyone
In the gift of loving kindness.

VERSE 2

Grateful for what's understood
And all that is forgiven.
We try so hard to be good,
To lead a life worth living.

CHORUS

Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless.
All together everyone
Let grateful days be endless.

Grateful for each hand we hold,
Gathered 'round this table.

Household Prayer

God, giver of all good,
you continually pour your benefits upon us.
Age after age the living wait upon you and find
that your faithfulness has no end,
that your care is unfailing.
We praise you that the mystery of life
is a mystery of infinite goodness.
We praise you
for the order and constancy of nature;
for the beauty and bounty of the earth;

for day and night, summer and winter,
seedtime and harvest;
for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings.
We give you thanks
for all the comfort and joy of life,
for our homes, for our friends,
and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people.

Amen.

—from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada* (UCPH, 2000)

Welcomers: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Chris Hopewell

Worship Schedule

October 19 th	19 th after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
October 26 th	Melville's Anniversary	
November 2 nd	21 st after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
November 9 th	22 nd after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson

Council Meeting Nov. 5, & Dec. 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.